

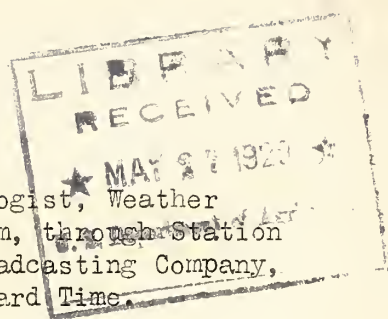
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119
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MAY WEATHER.

A radio talk by J. B. Kincer, agricultural meteorologist, Weather Bureau, on the Department of Agriculture noonhour program, through Station WRC and 16 other associated stations of the National Broadcasting Company, on Wednesday, May 15, 1929, at 1:38 p. m., Eastern Standard Time.



Four weeks ago we gave you a summary of weather conditions as affecting crop growth and farming operations up to the middle of April, and to-day we shall extend this summary to the middle of May. You recall that vegetation at the time we were last with you had developed to a state considerably ahead of an average season quite generally throughout the central States, and that fruits were so much ahead of the season as to be in danger of a killing frost. During the week preceding that summary, however, conditions had changed abruptly from fair and warm to cool and wet, which was delaying farm work, but at the same time it was still well in hand because of the favorable March and early April.

Conditions continued unfavorable for field operations and about April 20 heavy to killing frost occurred in much of the Lake region and the upper Ohio Valley, extending southward over appalachian sections as far as North Carolina. This frost did more or less damage, but was not extensive or serious. The remainder of April was cool, and vegetation made slow growth quite generally east of the Rocky Mountains, though temperatures were more favorable in the Southern States where fairly good advance occurred.

The outstanding feature of the weather during the last half of April, however, was the frequency of cloudy and rainy weather in the Central and Northern States. This caused a great deal of interruption to field work, and, as a result, the planting of spring crops, where usually seeded in April, was delayed beyond the average date. At the close of the month many reports from the wetter areas indicated that spring activities were two to three weeks late, but better progress was made in most of the Great Plains area.

Winter wheat made fairly satisfactory growth during this 2-weeks period, but in some lowlands of the interior valleys there were considerable complaints of plants yellowing because of the wetness, with dry weather and more sunshine badly needed. The last week of April was more favorable in the spring wheat area, especially in the north, and good progress was made in seeding. Oat seeding was badly delayed in most central valley sections, but cotton planting made rather satisfactory advance, as better weather prevailed in much of the South.

For the month of April, as a whole, the temperature averaged above normal in practically all of the eastern half of the country, but the high monthly means were due largely to the very warm weather the first week. Rainfall for the month was unevenly distributed. It was very dry in parts of the Southwest, in fact, some sections there had no rain during practically the entire month, but in the Northeast, the

Lake region, the northern Ohio, central Mississippi, and lower Missouri Valleys it was generally above normal, with many places having more than twice the usual amount for the month.

Keeping up the late April record, the first week in May continued abnormally cool, with the average temperature in the interior valleys and the Northwest ranging from 6° to 12° or 14° below normal, with hard freezes in Central-Northern States. In fact, this week was generally, and in most places decidedly, unfavorable for farming operations. It was not only very cool for the season, but frequent rains continued, and there was but little improvement in the advance of spring work in Central, Eastern, and Northern States. But little planting was possible east of the Mississippi River, and this made the fourth consecutive week of unfavorable weather for field work in many places. In addition, temperatures were too low for germination of early-planted crops in Central States; unprecedented snow storms occurred in the central Mississippi and parts of the Ohio Valleys, but these did only a moderate amount of damage, while no widespread harm resulted from frost. In the upper Mississippi Valley, however, especially in Iowa, mostly fair weather and considerable wind dried out the wet soil rapidly, and farm work was rather actively resumed, but temperatures were much too low for germination and growth, especially for spring wheat in the northern part of the belt.

Winter wheat continued in generally satisfactory condition, but there were increasing complaints of plants yellowing on lowlands because of wetness, while considerable land intended for oats could not be sown. In the South the first week in May was decidedly unfavorable for cotton. It was much too cool and wet in the eastern belt and too cool and dry in most of the west, with damaging high winds and sandstorms in places, resulting in considerable killing of young cotton.

These periodic weather summaries are based on a large number of reports collected weekly by telegraph from every State in the Union, received on Tuesday, and published in the Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin on Wednesday. Those for the current week indicate that the first part permitted of considerable corn planting in the northern part of the belt, but general, and in many places heavy, rains the latter part again stopped field operations. Planting is now generally late, ranging mostly from about one to two weeks or more. In Iowa, for example, scarcely one-fourth the intended corn land has been planted, while in an average year practically one-half has been put in by this date. In the eastern Cotton Belt the first part of the week was also unfavorably wet, but the last part was mostly dry and warmer. In the northwestern belt it was much too cool and wet, with planting and replanting at a standstill, and germination slow. Rains in Texas were helpful, except where excessive in the east and northeast. In the winter wheat and other small grains continued mostly fair progress, with conditions generally favorable in most of the spring wheat area where moderately cool weather promoted good stooling and rooting. In the central and eastern Winter Wheat Belt, there were further complaints of plants yellowing, especially on lowlands because of too much water.

